

BANTHA TRACKS

NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS FAN CLUB

INTERVIEW:

Raised in Phoenix, Arizona, Steven Spielberg was just twenty-one when he directed his first television movie, the pilot for NIGHT GALLERY. This was not his first filmmaking experience, however—far from it. From his early teens through his college career at California State College, Long Beach, Spielberg made several short films culminating in AMBLIN, a 24-minute short subject which won several awards and landed him the job directing NIGHT GALLERY. After directing a number of television episodes, the award-winning TV movie DUEL, and THE SUGARLAND EXPRESS, Spielberg was asked to take on a movie version of the book JAWS. The phenomenal success of this movie, largely due to the twenty-six-year-old director, made Spielberg one of the most sought-after directors in Hollywood. His next film CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, which he also wrote, won him an Academy Award nomination for best director. In 1980, Spielberg joined with longtime friend George Lucas as director of the Lucasfilm, Ltd., release RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK.

Q: Can you remember the first movie you ever saw?

SS: I saw my first film when I was about five years old—THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH. What I remember most about it were the elephants and the train crash, as opposed to the relationship between Charlton Heston and Betty Hutton, or Jimmy Stewart's fantastic portrayal of a clown. I remember the spectacle before I remember the personalities, which for a child is normal. But perhaps it is a clue to the kinds of movies I've been making like JAWS and CLOSE ENCOUNTERS as opposed to the kinds of films that I might make a couple of years from now.

Q: Did you go to a lot of movies during your childhood?

SS: Not a real lot. I was only allowed to go to those films that today would be considered G-rated. My parents were hypersensitive about my media intake, so they didn't let me watch too much television between the ages of one and twelve, and they screened the movies I was allowed to see. I think I was the only kid on the block who wasn't allowed to see violent movies so I would sneak out with friends and see them. So until I was twelve or thirteen, when I began making 8mm movies, I was not allowed to see anything that was not suitable for family enjoyment.

Q: I understand that before you were actually hired by Universal Studios, you just went on the lot in a suit carrying a briefcase and used an office.



Q: How did you get involved with your longtime friend, George Lucas, on RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK?

SS: George told me the story in Hawaii in May, 1977, a week before STAR WARS opened. He had gone to Hawaii to get away from what he thought would be a monumental disaster. At dinner one night, when George got the news that the film was a hit the first week and he was suddenly laughing again, he told me the story of RAIDERS. I said, "That's a really terrific story, George. It's something I'd like to do." About six months later he called me up and said, "If you're still interested, I'd like you to direct this when you get a chance."

Q: Was it difficult working with someone who is a good friend of yours?

Director Steven Spielberg confers with executive producer George Lucas while on location in La Rochelle, France for RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK.

Steven Spielberg

SS: That's right, I did.

Q: How did you have the nerve to do that?

SS: I don't know, I wanted to be a moviemaker so bad that I would have done anything, short of killing. I just wanted to get on that lot. Once I was there, it was like being at Disneyland. Once you are past the turnstyle, you can do anything you want as long as you have an "E" coupon. Once I was on the lot, that was my coupon to every stage on the lot, and I was able to observe dubbing and editing. I spent most of my time in the editing rooms.

Q: Didn't anyone ask you who you were and what you were doing there?

SS: They always asked who I was. To the people I got to know real well, I would say, "I'm just some kid hanging around." I kept my identity a mystery to those people I didn't know very well. I only wore the suit the first three days to get on the lot. Once they knew me, I wore regular clothes. I was only a nerd for three days, not for the three months I spent sneaking around Universal.

Q: You were only twenty-one when you started directing for Universal. How did people react to your age?

SS: As Rodney Dangerfield says, "I got no respect." It was very, very hard to overcome the sense of being a novelty item. Once the amusement was over, after the first few guffaws or snickers behind the back, and people saw I was going to be on the set to make the TV movie or the episode, then they began to accept me as a director. Then, of course, the reputation grows and people say, "Well, he's a kid, but he's okay." The best thing was that I was getting older.

SS: Where RAIDERS is concerned, George and I saw it pretty much alike. George and I have been friends a lot longer than we've been working together. We have only been working together for a year—we've been friends for eleven. It is very important, hit or miss, that nothing gets in the way of that friendship.

Q: Was RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK a difficult film to make?

INTERVIEW CONTINUED

Saga Notes

● "Mum" is still the word on details about the eagerly awaited third chapter in the STAR WARS saga, THE REVENGE OF THE JEDI. But we were able to dig up a few secret tidbits: George Lucas has completed a rough draft of the screenplay for JEDI and is currently rewriting it. And award-winning production designer Norman Reynolds is actively scouting for photography locations "all over the world."

● THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK is also coming back for a five-week engagement starting July 31, 1981. The film will play in 1,000 theaters in the U.S. and Canada. Watch your local newspaper for announcements of where EMPIRE will be playing near you.

● STAR WARS was back! For a successful and exciting two weeks in April, STAR WARS played in over 1,500 theaters throughout Canada and the U.S. We hope you didn't miss it!

INTERVIEW CONTINUED

SS: I see every film as a difficult film. A film like RAIDERS or a film like JAWS or CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND is really no more or less difficult than a film like KRAMER VS. KRAMER, a picture that essentially takes place in local exteriors and very contained interiors. JAWS was tough because you can't go out in the ocean and fight Mother Nature. The Coast Guard was laughing at us when we'd weigh anchor and get ready to photograph another vessel a few yards away. Minutes later both boats would be fifty yards apart. The Coast Guard would laugh and say, "Don't you know about the tides . . . they'll drag your anchors and your boats across the sandy bottom." But there are other movies that are made in small sets with three or four actors that are also extremely difficult.

Q: What qualities do you think a good director has?

SS: What makes a good director, more than anything else, is just having a good imagination. If you have a good imagination and you like to tell stories, and you feel you can turn around and communicate these thoughts to a lot of strangers, then perhaps you should write or start making 8mm movies. ●K.J. and A.H.



The grand prize and its modelmakers from Industrial Light and Magic. From left to right are Mike Fulmer, Wesley Seeds, Lorne Peterson, Charlie Bailey, Steve Gawley, Marc Thorpe, and Paul Huston.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK TO OPEN IN JUNE

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, the latest Lucasfilm, Ltd., production, will open in 800 theaters on June 12, 1981. This action-adventure film is directed by Steven Spielberg, produced by Frank Marshall and stars Harrison Ford (HAN SOLO) and Karen Allen. Executive producers were George Lucas and Howard Kazanjian.



Contest Wi

Twenty-two-year-old **MIKE HUTTO** of Orlando, Fla., is the grand prize winner of the Official Star Wars Fan Club Recruiting Contest. With his ingenuity and dedication in finding new members, he is certainly deserving of the unique grand prize—a replica of an Imperial All Terrain Attack Transport and Rebel Snow Speeder. This replica is exactly like the models used during the special effects filming of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. It is one of only nine built and the only one in existence outside of Lucasfilm, Ltd. The replica is in a lovely, protective display case and is currently being exhibited at Enterprise 1701, a science-fiction bookstore in Orlando where Mike works. In the following letter to the Fan Club, Mike tells us a little bit about himself and his strategy in recruiting new members:

Today I am a very happy person. I feel very honored to accept such a wonderful prize from the Fan Club at Lucasfilm, Ltd. Their attention to the interest and desires of the STAR WARS fans is one of the major factors contributing to my success as a Fan Club recruiter.

I am a recent graduate of the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in film communication. During college, I created a number of short science-fiction films which I am sure will serve as excellent bad examples of my early film career. I also sculpt and have created a number of masks and costumes that have been used at theater and television appearances promoting STAR WARS and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK.



Mike Hutto displays his AT-AT at Enterprise 1701, where he works. Photo by Dennis Wall, The Little Sentinel.

My greatest source of new members for the contest was four different jobs that I held. First was a job at a movie theater which showed THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. Other local fans and I arranged the showing of the movie and appeared in costumes as characters from the movie. Many new members joined right at the

opening and others joined during the run of the movie.

I also worked at Disney World as an operator on the monorail transportation system. A number of fellow employees enjoyed STAR WARS and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. Once I offered the club to them, they were glad to join.

After graduation from college last August, I started working at a science-fiction bookstore in Orlando. The owner of the store allowed me to ask customers if they would like to join the Fan Club. The store attracts all kinds of science-fiction fans from hardcore to softcore, but almost all enjoyed THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK and I collected several new memberships there.

My biggest help came from Mike Kitt and Sue Cornwall of the Intergalactic Trading Company, which sells science-fiction memorabilia and other current science-fiction material through the mail. These folks were kind enough to let me solicit memberships from some of their better customers.

I would like to express my thanks to the many people who joined the Fan Club and helped me to get others to join. I would also like to thank the people of Lucasfilm, Ltd., Industrial Light & Magic, and the Fan Club for offering such a contest.

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CHRIS NEUFELD had a particularly difficult task ahead of him when he decided to enter the Fan Club Recruiting Contest. He lives in Perryton, Texas, a rural area with a population of only 7,800. You may not think there would be a lot of STAR WARS fans in such a small community, but through a network of friends the seventeen-year-old junior at Perryton High School found enough to win second prize in the national contest.

A long-time science-fiction buff, Chris has just started to collect STAR WARS memorabilia. The second prize—a STAR WARS poster signed by the whole crew at Industrial Light & Magic (including George Lucas, Gary Kurtz and Joe Johnston)—is a welcome addition to his new collection.—K.J.

Second prize winner Chris Neufeld.



Terri Hardin poses with her prize.

Third prize winner **TERRI HARDIN** is a twenty-three-year-old freelance illustrator from Sun Valley, Calif. She is the same Terri Hardin that has received so much attention from the press for standing in line for two days for the opening of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. She has seen STAR WARS 181 times and EMPIRE 108 times.

Terri thought of a very creative way to recruit members for the Fan Club—have her own contest and let the people come to her. She decided to hold a drawing of all the names of people who joined the Fan Club through her. The names of six lucky people would be picked to receive unique, homemade prizes. The prizes included a Yoda puppet (grand prize), a mind probe droid, a Han Solo blaster, a Tauntaun and rider, a snow walker, and a Chewbacca cross blaster. They were all constructed by Terri and her fiancée Ron Harrison.

Terri and Ron took the Yoda puppet with them everywhere—supermarkets, conventions, schools—and handed out flyers inviting people to join the club and qualify for a prize. The response was excellent.

Terri also had some help from Forry Ackerman, the famous science-fiction fan, who signed up thirteen people from all over the world. When the names were finally drawn—amidst great excitement—the grand prize winner was a man from Sweden. Another winner was from outside the U.S., and three lived outside of Terri's home state of California.

Terri was extremely happy to add the third prize—another signed STAR WARS poster—to her extensive collection of STAR WARS (over forty-five) and EMPIRE posters. ● K.J.

PROFILE CREATIVE CORNER

Nathalie Khodolitzky (Paris, France) took her Princess Leia costume pictures one step further by matting them into publicity stills and photographing the results. Nathalie says, "The most difficult thing was to obtain pictures of me corresponding in size and lightness with the original pictures from the movie."

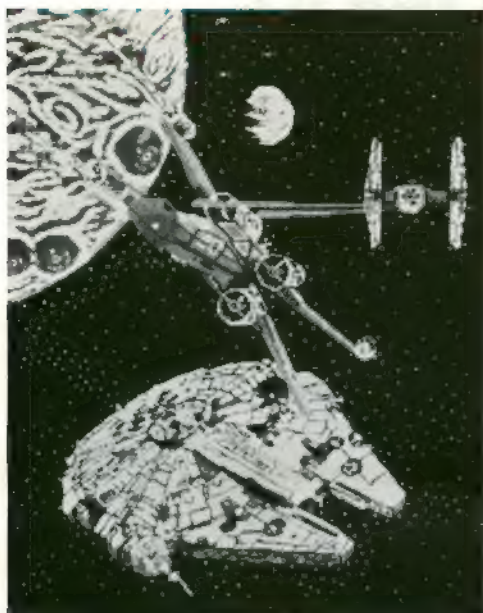


Wanda and Tylene Jenkins (Baltimore, Maryland) having fun at the September 16, 1980 Baltimore City Fair. "Look out! The Sith Lord is right behind you."



Detailed illustration by Steve Baker (Merced, California). Water color and ink on vellum.

CREATIVE CORNER



"Battle Above A Doomed Rebel Planet," needlepoint by Clyde H. McClure (Artesia, California).



Emily Penfield (Garland, Texas) drew a pen and ink interpretation of the phrase "Vader in Flames." "Pass the marshmallows, Yoda."

M.G.

Updates

CREATIVITY CONTEST

This is a reminder that all entries must be received by August 31, 1981. Note that a special mailing address must be used by all participating in this contest. Official STAR WARS Fan Club, STAR WARS Saga Creativity Contest, P.O. Box 2202, San Rafael, CA 94912.



Harrison Ford, shown here as Han Solo, captain of the Millennium Falcon, will be starring in another space story entitled *BLADE RUNNER*.

HAN SOLO IN A NEW ROLE

Harrison Ford (HAN SOLO) is starring in *BLADE RUNNER*, currently in production at Warner Brothers studio. A detective thriller set in the year 2021, the film is based on the book *DO ANDROIDS DREAM OF ELECTRIC SHEEP?* by award-winning science-fiction writer Philip K. Dick. The Ladd Company release is being directed by Ridley Scott (*ALIEN*) with special effects by Douglas Trumbull (2001, *CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND*). *BLADE RUNNER*, which will be distributed by Warner Bros., will open in May, 1982.

How to write us:

Editorial correspondence, new membership fees, pen pals, actor fan mail, costuming guidelines, club information: Official STAR WARS Fan Club, P.O. Box 8905, Universal City, CA 91608. When appropriate send a self-addressed stamped envelope to help ensure a quick reply.

Subscription problems, membership renewals, product fulfillment inquiries: Official STAR WARS Fan Club, Customer Service Dept., P.O. Box 163, Mt. Morris, IL 61054.

To Change Address: Official STAR WARS Fan Club, P.O. Box 163, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. Please allow 6 weeks for change of address to take effect. The date of the last issue of your current subscription appears at the center of the top line of the newsletter mailing label. Please attach the actual mailing label or a copy of the label when writing about service, renewal or change of address.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New members will receive the EMPIRE kit, which contains a poster, six 8 x 10 color photos, a decal, and other ESB items, and a year's subscription (four issues) to *BANTHA TRACKS*.

New membership fees are \$5 (\$6 Canada, \$7 foreign); renewals are \$4 (\$5 Canada, \$6 foreign). Canadian and foreign members must order using international bank drafts or money orders made payable in U.S. currency. Please do not send cash.

FORCE NUMBERS

ALL members, including U.K. members, have been assigned a new 10-digit Force number. This new Force number, preceded by a letter, can be found on the upper-left portion of your mailing label. Please include this Force number at all times when writing the Fan Club.

PEN PAL SERVICE

If you are interested in having a pen pal, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Fan Club. Please write "Pen Pal" on the outer envelope.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO U.K. MEMBERS

As the London, England, mailing address for the Fan Club has been discontinued, please make note of the following address changes, effective immediately. For Fan Club information, write in care of the Official STAR WARS Fan Club, P.O. Box 8905, Universal City, California 91608, U.S.A. For Customer Service information, write in care of the Official STAR WARS Fan Club, P.O. Box 163, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054, U.S.A.

BANTHA TRACKS, the newsletter of the Official STAR WARS Fan Club, is published quarterly by Lucasfilm, Ltd., P.O. Box 8905, Universal City, CA 91608. Subscription price is \$4 per year, \$5 Canada, \$6 foreign. This is Issue Number 12, May 1981 by Lucasfilm, Ltd. (LFL). All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. Reprint or reproduction in part or in whole without written permission from the publisher is strictly forbidden. Application to mail at Second-Class postage rates is pending at North Hollywood, CA and at additional mailing offices.

Staff for this issue was: Deborah Call, Ira Friedman, Maureen Garrett, Ann Holler, Larry Rothstein, Kristine Johnson, Melanie Paykos, Rio Phior and Barb Lakin.

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